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# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner*  
*Jeff Regnart, Director*



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PO Box 110024  
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Time: 9:00 a.m.

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#### SEYMOUR CANAL SAC ROE HERRING FISHERY ADVANCE NOTICE

Juneau. . . The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) announced today that the Seymour Canal gillnet herring sac roe fishery will be placed on 2-hour notice effective 9:00 p.m., Monday, April 23, 2012. This means that a fishery could be opened with a minimum of two hours notice after that time.

As many as 230 sea lions and 10-12 humpback whales have been observed in the core spawning area of Seymour Canal for the last week. No herring spawn or schools of herring have been observed to date. Surveys of the Hobart Bay area documented approximately 1 nautical mile of herring spawn on Saturday April 21, and the spawn event expanded April 22. The department vessel *R/V Medeia* will be departing from Juneau at 12:30 p.m. April 23, 2012 to conduct sonar surveys in Seymour Canal.

In 2011 the Seymour fishery was opened April 26 and in 2010 the fishery opened April 24. Over the last 20 years, herring have spawned in Seymour Canal as early as April 19 and as late as May 21. The average date of the first documented spawn is April 29 and the average opening date for the commercial sac roe fishery is May 3. The 2012 harvest quota for the Seymour sac roe fishery is 1,287 tons. This is based on a forecast mature spawning biomass of 9,135 tons and a harvest rate of 14.1%. The forecast indicates that the spawning stock will consist of 9% age-3, 15% age-4, 20% age-5, 9% age-6, 25% age-7 and 21% age-8+.

All permit holders who do not have buoy stickers and who are planning to fish must register with the department on the grounds prior to fishing. Buoy stickers will be available from department personnel aboard the *R/V Medeia*.

**Fish and Game biologists will be basing operations aboard the *R/V Medeia* until the close of the fishery. All announcements concerning the fishery will be made on the grounds from the *R/V Medeia*. Future Fishery Updates may not be posted and distributed in a timely manner until ADF&G staff return from the field.**

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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